

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:

1. (Currently Amended) A thermal transfer medium comprising a substrate bearing on at least part of one surface thereof a coating layer of a thermally transferable overlay material for transfer onto a thermal transfer image formed on a receiver material, wherein the coating layer comprises a hydroxy-terminated polyester having a Tg of at least 75° C and a molecular weight ranging from 6,000 to 10,000, and wherein a cross-linked acrylic subcoat is present between the substrate and coating.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) A thermal transfer medium according to claim 1, wherein the polyester has a Tg of about 80°C and a molecular weight ranging from about 7,000 to 10,000.

4. (Previously Presented) A thermal transfer medium according to claim 1, wherein the polyester has a Tg of about 77°C and a molecular weight ranging from about 7,500 to 10,000.

5. (Previously Presented) A thermal transfer medium according to claim 1, wherein the coating further comprises filler material.

6. (Previously Presented) A thermal transfer medium according to claim 1, wherein the coating further comprises one or more ultra-violet light absorbers.

7. (Previously Presented) A thermal transfer medium according to claim 1, wherein the coating further comprises one or more optical brighteners.

8. (Previously Presented) A thermal transfer medium according to claim 1, wherein the substrate comprises a film of heat-resistant material selected from polyesters, polyamides, polyimides, polycarbonates, polysulphones, polypropylene and cellophane.

9. (Previously Presented) A thermal transfer medium according to claim 1, wherein the coating has a thickness ranging from 0.5 to 5.0 μm .

10-11 (Cancelled).

12. (Previously Presented) A thermal transfer medium according to claim 1, wherein the other surface of the substrate has a heat-resistant backcoat.

13. (Currently Amended) A thermal transfer medium, comprising an elongate strip of substrate material having on one surface thereof a plurality of similar sets of thermally transferable dye coats and mass transfer layers, each set comprising a respective coat of dye colors, yellow, magenta and cyan, and a respective mass transfer layer for colorant and overlay, each coat or layer being in the form of a discrete stripe extending transverse to the length of the substrate, wherein each overlay material mass transfer layer comprises a coating of an overlay material comprising a hydroxy-terminated polyester having a glass transition temperature (T_g) greater than 50° C and a molecular weight ranging from 6,000 to 10,000.

14. Cancelled

15. (Previously Presented) A method of forming an overlay on a receiver material, comprising the steps of
superposing a thermal transfer medium in accordance with claim 1 and a receiver material;
applying localized heating to the thermal transfer medium
to form an overlay on the receiver material.

16. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 15, further comprising the step of producing a printed image on the receiver material by thermal transfer printing prior to formation of the overlay.

17. (Previously Presented) Receiver material bearing an overlay produced by the method of claim 15.

18. (Previously Presented) Receiver material according to claim 17, comprising a card of polyvinyl chloride.

19. (Previously Presented) Receiver material according to claim 17, wherein the receiver material has an image-receiving surface comprising vinyl chloride/vinyl acetate copolymer.

20. (Previously Presented) Receiver material according to claim 17 in the form of an identification card bearing a full color image produced by thermal transfer printing and text and/or a bar code produced by mass transfer printing of colorant.

21. (Previously Presented) The combination of a receiver material having an image-receiving surface comprising vinyl chloride/vinyl acetate copolymer and a thermal transfer medium comprising a substrate bearing on at least part of one surface thereof a coating layer of a thermally transferable overlay material for transfer onto a thermal transfer image formed on the receiver material, wherein the coating layer comprises polyester having a T_g greater than 50° C and a molecular weight ranging from 6,000 to 10,000.

22. (Previously Presented) A combination according to claim 21, wherein the receiver material comprises a card of polyvinyl chloride.

23. (Previously Presented) Receiver material having an image-receiving surface comprising vinyl chloride/vinyl acetate copolymer on which has been formed an overlay by applying localized heating to a thermal transfer medium comprising a substrate bearing on at least part of one surface thereof a coating layer of a thermally transferable overlay material for transfer onto a thermal transfer image formed on a receiver material, wherein the coating layer comprises polyester having a Tg greater than 50° C and a molecular weight ranging from 6,000 to 10,000.

24. (Previously Presented) Receiver material according to claim 23, wherein the receiver material comprises a card of polyvinyl chloride.

25. (Previously Presented) Receiver material according to claim 23, bearing a printed image formed on the image-receiving surface prior to formation of the overlay.

26. (Previously Presented) A method of forming an overlay on a receiver material having an image-receiving surface comprising vinyl chloride/vinyl acetate copolymer, comprising the steps of

superimposing a thermal transfer medium comprising a substrate bearing on at least part of one surface thereof a coating layer of a thermally transferable overlay material for transfer onto a thermal transfer image formed on a receiver material, wherein the coating layer comprises polyester having a Tg greater than 50° C and a molecular weight ranging from 6,000 to 10,000; and

applying localized heating to the thermal transfer medium to form an overlay on the receiver material.